



Number 162

October/November 2026

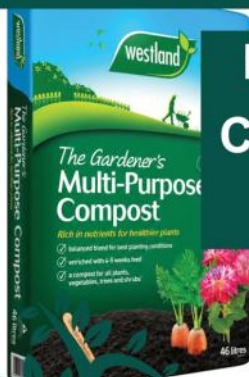
Village Voice

THE DERSINGHAM MAGAZINE



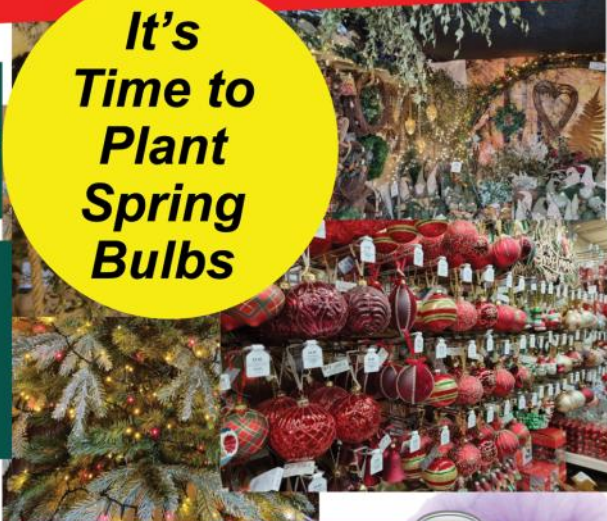
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Parish Council Chairman's Report

Coral Shepherd



What a summer we have just had, the hottest on record, but not necessarily the driest according to what I have just heard on the radio. I have never seen the village looking so parched, with all grass having turned brown weeks ago, but now after a few showers lawns are gradually recovering.

The highlight of the summer for those of us who enjoy gardens and gardening was the RHS flower show at Sandringham in July. What a feast for the eyes and senses, something for everyone from beautiful gardens to admire to tools to make it all happen. There are several photos to give you a flavour of the event on other pages in this edition. The only issue that I have seen raised were the delays on the A149 from the 20mph speed limit. The evening of the first day I was thrilled to see His Majesty King Charles III visit St Nicholas church in the evening to attend a music concert in aid of Norfolk Churches, see photo.



Sadly, for many in the village this summer's concerts at the Sandringham Estate were cancelled for financial reasons. The organisers cite poor ticket sales, the cost-of-living crisis and competition from many other similar events. It remains to be seen whether or not there will be any concerts at the Estate in future years. However, all was not lost as there have been some mini concerts in the village, Breast of Friends held a Breastfest on the Sports Ground and raised over £15,000 for their charity, read more later in this edition. The Social Club also held a mini weekend festival and made nearly £3000 towards their roof repair fund. Well done to the organisers and all those who supported these local events.

The Parish Council had a recess from meetings in August but that does not mean that nothing has happened. In response to concerns about speeding in the village we are working with Norfolk County Council to have village gates installed at the entrance to the village in Shernborne Road. Costs of the work will be shared and should take place before the end of March 2027. Discussions about speeding elsewhere in the village are ongoing. We are also working towards having two more bus shelters installed and where there is not space for a shelter, to have benches at bus stops. The County Council are currently offering generous grants of 80% of the costs and we will know by Christmas if we have been successful. The other project under consideration is the replacement of the timber sleepers around the flower beds at the War Memorial Gardens at Station Road. Work on a Neighbourhood Plan for Dersingham is progressing, please read Councillor Barker's article. Details of the project to remodel and renovate the sports pavilion are described in David Collingham's article. □



Dersingham Neighbourhood Plan

Nigel Barker, Working Group Chairman

Following a busy few months for the Working Group, the majority of our work is pretty much complete. We are now excitedly awaiting delivery of the draft documents from our consultants before commencing the job of proof reading.

Once this task is complete, the final draft documents will be ratified by Full Parish Council before proceeding to a period of pre-submission consultation. Lasting about six weeks, this will be your opportunity to view the draft Neighbourhood Plan and provide comments before the final Plan and supporting documentation are formally submitted to the Borough Council.

Please keep an eye on the Parish Council website for further news and if you haven't done so already, register for regular email updates.□



RECYCLE with Dersingham Scouts & Guides

We collect:

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- Junk mail



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Donations are left in the covered Porch of our HQ
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THANK YOU

The money raised goes towards the our HQ and all
donations are gratefully received

Dersingham Craft & Gift Fairs

Dersingham Village Centre
83 Manor Road, PE31 6LN

Sunday 4th October
Sunday 22nd November
10am - 3pm

Pop-up Café

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News from Dersingham Village Centre Sue Payne, Chairman DVCA

Association Matters

By the time you are reading this, painting the exterior woodwork (weather permitting) of the Centre and in the St Nicholas Hall will have been carried out.

We are pleased to welcome Carrie Chappell as a new Trustee and Secretary to the Association, and Mike Strong as the Minutes Secretary.

Coffee Shop

Every Thursday between 10am and 12:30pm we catch up with our regular customers and extend a very warm welcome to visitors. On offer are very reasonably priced home-baked savouries and cakes, and hot and cold drinks.

Tapping House take over on the first Thursday each month, with a slightly different menu, and the proceeds support the excellent work carried out at the Hospice.

Friendship Lunches

On the first Tuesday of each month, we serve a freshly cooked two-course meal, with tea or coffee, for just £8. Numbers are limited and booking is required. Call 01485 540644 by noon on the *Thursday* beforehand and also advise us of any allergy or dietary needs.

Village Cinema

October's screening is *I Swear*, a film based on the true story of a David Johnson, a man with Tourette Syndrome, which balances sadness with humour. In November we are showing *Military Wives*, another true story culminating with the choir's performance at the annual Festival of Remembrance.

Events

Our annual Barn Dance, led by Whirligig, will be on Saturday, November 7th. We are not serving a meal, but nibbles will be provided. Tickets are priced at £12.50 (£7 for Under 16s) and are on sale at Dersingham News. See the poster for more information on page 8.

Looking ahead, another annual event is the Christmas Carols singalong event which will take place on Wednesday December 16th. Details of our Christmas and New Year closure will be in the next edition of Village Voice.

For more information about the Centre, What's On and Contact Details please visit our website - www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk. We also post on the Dersingham Village Facebook Group. □



Telephone: 01485 600777

Email: jackie@ewingaccountsservices.co.uk

Address: Unit 4, St Nicholas Court,
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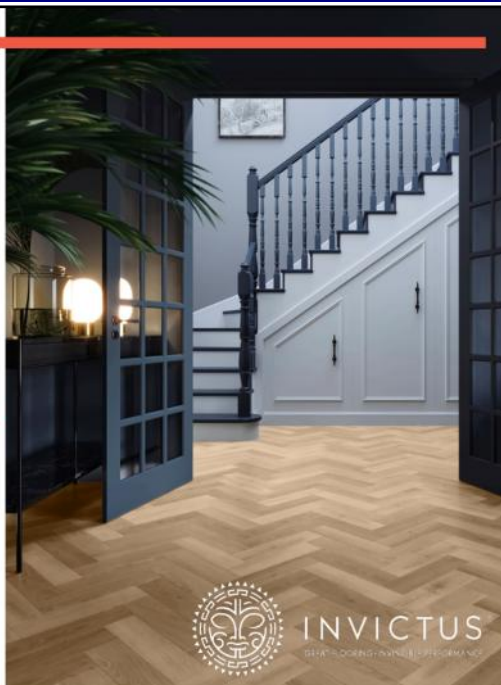
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Registered Charity No 1178462
www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk



Farewell to Dick Melton Jo Halpin Jones

We recently learned that Dick passed away in April this year at the age of 86. He was such a wonderful contributor to *Village Voice* for over twenty years, recounting his detailed observations of local life over many decades. Although later in life he lived and worked in Hunstanton, in his youth he lived in Dersingham and appeared to be well acquainted with every nook and cranny of the village and surrounding area. When he was a lad he and his mates roamed freely through the woods and down to the sea, where no doubt they got up to all sorts of mischief.

Leaving school early Dick found an assortment of jobs, from land work, tractor driving, carrying out deliveries, whatever was going. He knew the village and surrounding area inside out. It was fascinating to read of all the changes that have taken place over the decades – he recalled all the shops and businesses that lined the various roads, with so many now having disappeared. No longer a bank, a baker, a butcher nor a hardware store. And he entertained us with colourful stories about all the village characters from his childhood.

Dick was also a keen researcher about the history of Dersingham and surrounding villages: the ancient families and their long lost manor houses, the lives of local inhabitants throughout the centuries, and the changes to the land over time. He was particularly passionate about the upkeep of the Commons and the Fen, believing they were becoming far too overgrown. He would have been delighted by the work of English Nature and Dersingham United Charities with the regenerative work they have been doing.

So, thank you Dick Melton for all your tales – some of them very tall – we still miss you.



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Dersingham Day Club

During July, before our summer break, we enjoyed an afternoon of music, singing and dancing with Jamm'in Joe.

We also had a summer outing to Shepherds Port Bar at Snettisham Beach, where members, volunteers and our bus driver, Stan, enjoyed lunch together.

A very special mention goes to Joyce, who celebrated her 95th birthday during our summer break in August. Joyce has been attending the Day Club for at least twelve years or more and is our longest-serving member. When asked what she enjoys most about coming to the club, Joyce said, "the companionship and the games." We would like to wish Joyce a very happy belated 95th birthday.



After many years of dedicated support to the Day Club committee, Maggie has now stepped down from the committee but will continue to be a part of the Day Club. Her many years of time, commitment and hard work on the committee have been greatly appreciated by the committee, volunteer helpers and members.



We meet every Wednesday from 10.00am to 2.00pm at the Village Centre. If you're over 70 and would like to find out more about becoming a member, call Wendy on 01485 544975 or pop by one Wednesday to see what we're all about. □



Happy 95th Birthday Joyce

1st Dersingham Guides have a Global adventure on summer camp



Towards the end of August, the 1st Dersingham Guides headed to the Girlguiding Anglia Hautbois Activity centre for their summer camp. Thankfully, the weather was not as hot as it had been - we even had a small shower of rain! This year, the camp had a Global adventure theme with the patrols named after airlines, whilst the crafts and meals had an international flavour.

Once the girls had arrived and put their tents up, they then needed to build their washing up stands - square lashing, poles, and bamboo canes. These, mostly, survived the camp with only a few repairs needed to ensure the washing up bowl didn't fall to the ground! Each morning, the girls made bedding rolls and tidied their tents ready for inspection. They also helped in preparing the meals with everyone enjoying pasta bolognese, chicken curry, pavlova, Neapolitan ice cream, croissants, plus much more.

Each day, the girls enjoyed the different activities at Hautbois. They took part in high ropes, monkey climbing (tree climbing), orienteering and shelter building (tested by throwing buckets of water at them with the Guides inside!) There was also paddle boarding and tomahawk throwing. The Guides also enjoyed making different crafts: mosaic coasters (Italy), fish windsocks inspired by Children's Day in Japan, colourful foil butterflies inspired by Senegal and Mexican Gods' eyes.

In the evenings, there was the chance to play different running team games as well as quizzes and bingo. On the final evening, everyone fetched their badge blankets for a campfire (an inflatable one) with lots of very silly songs. The evening ended with marshmallows.



This year's camp ended with everyone helping to pack everything up and being presented with lots of badges. All the Guides and leaders had a great time. □



BreastFest

Dersingham community came together for the first-ever BreastFest, organised by local charity Breast of Friends, which raised an incredible £15,192.78 for the Breast Care and Cancer Care Units at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, King's Lynn.

Held at The Pastures behind the Coach & Horses in Dersingham, the festival brought the community together for a day of music, entertainment, food, and fundraising in support of services that are vital to local families.

Created by Breast of Friends, the event aimed to introduce something new to Dersingham while raising funds to support patients receiving treatment at the Hospital. The total raised was made possible through the generosity of amazing business sponsors, and everyone who attended, donated or volunteered in support of the event.

Claire Ling, Chair Trustee of Breast of Friends, said: "We honestly cannot thank everyone enough. To see our first BreastFest come together. BreastFest was about bringing the community together, having fun and creating something really special, but, most importantly, it was about raising money to support the Breast Care and Cancer Care Units at Queen Elizabeth Hospital. There are so many people who made this possible—our amazing committee and volunteers, business sponsors, performers and everyone who came along on the day. Every donation helps us make a real difference to people receiving treatment locally. We have not only created an amazing event and raised a fantastic amount of money, but also memories that I hope will stay with us all for many years to come. Thank you to every single person who gave their time, energy, ideas, support and hard work. BreastFest was a team effort in every sense of the word, and I couldn't be prouder of what we achieved together". Breast of Friends extends its thanks to the businesses whose support helped make BreastFest possible.



Bespoke Construction Group were the event's main business sponsor, with additional support from Britton's Estate Agents, Day Secure and the Coach and Horses.

Entertainment was sponsored by Advance Engineering and Barrett Batchelor Mortgage Services, while the VIP Area was sponsored by Stebbings.

The charity also thanks the many other local businesses that contributed through sponsorship and services.

We really cannot thank our local businesses enough. They all played a huge part in making BreastFest happen.



Together, the community has shown what can be achieved when people come together for a meaningful cause.

For further information contact Breast of Friends: info@breastoffriends.co.uk
Registered Charity Number: 1214528□



Dersingham Choir's New Rehearsal Season

Dersingham Choir started its new Autumn rehearsal season on Thursday 3rd September, following an August break after a successful summer season which included 'Echoes of Africa' and a summer gala charity concert.

If you enjoy singing in a friendly atmosphere, then do join us, we always welcome new members. We meet every Thursday at St Cecilia's Catholic Church, Mountbatten Road, Dersingham from 7 pm to 9 pm. The choir is as much about making new friends as making music and we will be working towards our Christmas concert amongst other things. There is no requirement for members to take part in concerts. We also meet for coffee and a chat at local cafes about once a month.

If you would like to join then just come to one of our rehearsal sessions or contact Kate, the choir secretary, phone 07513 986858 or email secretaryDC2025@outlook.com. □



of care issues. Care information is often time-consuming and difficult to access, so we are happy to share some of our questions and answers with you.

Question – I am beginning to think that an older relative may be starting to show behaviour that may be dementia. Could you recommend any leaflets that I could read to help me either understand or dismiss the thoughts that I have?

Answer - Yes - For anyone who has a relative with dementia, is concerned that they or a loved one may be developing dementia or would simply like to learn more about the condition, *The Dementia Guide* from the Alzheimer's Society is an excellent resource. This comprehensive 96-page booklet can be downloaded free of charge or requested in printed form from the Alzheimer's Society website at Alzheimers.org.uk, or by calling the Alzheimer's Society Dementia Support Line on 0333 150 3456.

The guide provides clear and practical information to help people understand dementia, including day-to-day coping strategies, ways to stay safe and well, and details of the support services and care options that may be available.

Written in an easy-to-read format and carrying the NHS symbol on its front cover, the guide is a valuable source of information for anyone affected by dementia.

Question: How do I claim Attendance Allowance (or Scotland's Pension Age Disability Payment)?

Answer - Full details about applying for Attendance Allowance are on the **Gov.uk** website. Put into your search engine "How to apply for Attendance Allowance". Do **NOT** use any of companies that advertise that they will help you with the form as they may charge several hundred pounds. Only use the **Gov.uk** site which is absolutely free.

You can apply online and you will be sent the application form to fill in, but the claim, if successful, will only be backdated to when the form is received back from you. It's better to ring on **0800 7310122** to request a form and then any successful claim will be backdated to the time of the phone call.

If you require any assistance with filling in the form, free help is available from these organisations:

- Age UK – 0800 6781602 or local branches
- Independent Age – 0800 3196789
- Citizens Advice - 0800 144 8848

AA is to support people who need help with personal care, such as washing and dressing. If care is needed during the day the lower rate is applied - £76.70 per week. For day and night care the higher rate is £114.60. Full eligibility details are on the website. Note that care might not actually be currently received, but there is a need for it.

Singalong with Dersingers Steve Davis



It's always a pleasure to welcome both new and regular folk along to our now well-established last Friday of the month Singalongs in the Village Centre Garden Room 2pm—4pm, the next three being: 25th September, 30th October and 27th November.

We have a lot of fun singing, playing and just enjoying one another's company together with a break for refreshments. Lots of songs for you to choose from our ever-growing songbook (printed copied supplied), or you're free to give us any other instrumental or song rendition of your own choice.

Full details on our website dersingers.uk from where you can also check out or download our frequently updated songbook, or you can contact me by emailing steve.dersingham@gmail.com or phone/text/WhatsApp 07885 721158. □



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Dersingham Social Club

OPENING HOURS

Monday CLOSED

Tuesday CLOSED

Wednesday 7pm - 11:00pm

Thursday 7pm - 11:00pm

Friday 4:30pm - 11:30pm

Saturday 2pm - 11:30pm

Sunday 1pm - 9pm

26th September - Country Night 8pm

Grab your cowboy hats and boots and join us for a night of country music. with line dancing tuition at various intervals throughout the night. With Luke Coombs, Luke Bryan, Ella Langley

2nd October - Quiz Night 8pm in aid of East Anglian Air Ambulance

3rd October - Harry Murrell 8pm

Did you see this young lad at our Dersybeats Festival? His guitar playing is amazing! All the best rock, pop and indie anthems.

17th October - Stereotypes 8pm

Back by popular demand. Non-stop Britpop and Indie anthems

24th October - Dead Horse 9pm

The Mighty Dead Horse, masters of hard rock 'n metal return to the club with their usual brand of madness

7th November - DJ Zola 8pm

Soul, sass and serious tunes!

14th November - Bingo Night on behalf of Breast of Friends. Eyes down 6:30pm

27th November - Cecil Farayi

Motown, soul, Tamla, party, pop and disco

28th November - No Nonsense

Live four piece band, playing The Jam, Dire Straits, Van Morrison, Squeeze, Eric Clapton ...something for everyone

WEEKLY EVENTS

Mondays 2.00pm - 4.00 pm - Table Tennis

Dersingham table tennis club meets every Monday, 2pm - 4 pm in the club. We have roughly equal numbers of female and male players of varying skills, and we always play for fun. Just turn up and join in or contact Mark 07763 643498 for more information.

2nd and 4th Mondays 7:30pm - 8:30pm — Line Dancing

Places can be booked through the Buckin' Boots website and are suitable for beginners
www.buckinbootslinedancing.com

Please check our **Facebook page @DersinghamSocialClub** for more details and any minor changes to our events. If you are not on Facebook and would like to be added to our monthly newsletter, please let us have your email address and your name. We would also welcome any suggestions for future events you'd like to see at the club.

You can also **email us at dersinghamscenquiries@gmail.com** with any enquiries regarding membership, hall hire (either daytime or for parties, wakes etc)□

July Garden Sale Joan Garwood

A total of £95.00 has been raised for Tapping House. I would like to thank all for buying the items which had been given to me from a friend who had been clearing out her loft. The items that were not sold were donated to Tapping House charity shop. A big thank you to all those that helped raised such a large amount.□

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Cascade of Poppies at St Nicholas Church Appeal **Anne Hynde**

The Flower Team at St Nicholas are planning to add to the very well received 2025 "Cascade of Poppies" to decorate the church for Remembrance Sunday 2026.

To achieve this, we need as many poppies as possible. The poppies can be any textile creation - knitted, crocheted, felted - that can be attached to make the cascade, which will be displayed at the front of the church. We were thrilled with the response from the village and beyond that our request received last year and would like to build on that success.

Patterns can be downloaded from the internet and the St Nicholas "Knit and Natter" group can help with expertise.

We will start collecting poppies from **Sunday 27th September** up until the end of October.

If you would like to help, or would like more information please contact: Anne Hynde - 07885 956321 □

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Sunday 29 th November	12.00pm – 2.30pm
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Events for October and November

COFFEE MORNINGS - Mondays 10:00 a.m. to 12 Noon, 5th and 19th October, 2nd, 16th and 30th November. Coffee, tea, cakes and biscuits available to purchase. For information please email: farmboy24@sky.com or telephone, text, or WhatsApp 07899 872351

NORFOLK and WAVENEY MIND GROUP MEETINGS Every Tuesday 11:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

For further information and to book please visit the website www.norfolkandwaveneymind.org.uk or email: ruralmentalhealth@norfolkandwaveneymind.org.uk or telephone: 0300 330 5488

ACOUSTIC MUSIC NIGHTS Friday 23rd October and Friday 20th November - Club opens 7:00p.m. Music from 7:30 p.m. Admission free. Fully licensed bar. Come along and join a collective of like-minded musicians and singers to perform, jam or just listen. Expect spontaneous collaborations - new interpretations and old favourites to sing along to. For further information please email: events@appleyard.info

QUIZ NIGHTS Friday 30th October and Friday 27th November – Club opens 7.00 p.m. Quiz starts 7.30 p.m. Entry £3 per person. Fully licensed bar and raffle. For information email: enquiries@anmerclub.co.uk or telephone, text or WhatsApp 07899872351

BINGO NIGHTS Monday 5th October and Monday 2nd November – Club opens at 7.00p.m. "Eyes Down" at 7.30 p.m. £6.50 for a book of 10 cards; £1.50 for a "Flyer Card" and £2 for a "Cash Accumulator" card. Fully licensed bar and raffle. For information email: enquiries@anmerclub.co.uk or telephone, text or WhatsApp 07899872351

FILM NIGHTS

Friday 9th October - MY MOTHER'S WEDDING – 15 – Starring Kristin Scott Thomas and Scarlett Johansson. Three sisters return to their home for the third wedding of their twice-widowed mother. But the mother and daughters are forced to revisit the past and confront the future, with help from a colourful group of unexpected wedding guests.

Friday 13th November - THE CHRISTOPHERS – 15 - Starring Ian McKellen and Michaela Coel. Julian Sklar was once a star of London's 1960's and 70's pop art explosion, but he hasn't painted in decades and has been broke for years. His two estranged children, desperate for an inheritance, hire Lori an art restorer and former forger, to pose as a prospective assistant to access eight unfinished canvases Julian has buried deep in storage. The plan is to complete them, then return them to storage, where they are to be "discovered" upon Julian's death.

Club opens 7.00 p.m. – Films start at 7.30 p.m. Admission £5 at the door. For further information email enquiries@anmerclub.co.uk or telephone 01485 579465

RACE NIGHT WITH FISH AND CHIPS SUPPER – Saturday 17th October – Club opens 7:00 p.m. First Race – 7:30 p.m. £2 win only stakes. Food served 8:00 p.m. Fish and chips supper - £10 per person payable on the night. Advanced orders essential by

Wednesday 15th October. Fully licensed bar and raffle. To book please email: farmboy24@sky.com or telephone, text, or WhatsApp 07899 872351

Club opening times unless otherwise stated Fridays - 7.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. – Last orders 9.30 p.m.

The club is available for private functions. For more information and to book please email anmer.club@outlook.com □

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Dersingham Institute Bowls Club

Jan Rawstron

I know I always say this at this time of year, but I really can't believe that by the time you read this article, our 2026 bowls season will be virtually over. The months have sped by, filled with both competitive and social bowling. We have made new friends and have enjoyed the challenges the weather has thrown our way. It could have something to do with the weather, but our Saturday Roll-ups have been extremely well attended this season.

I reported last time that the men had a convincing win over the ladies in the 1st leg of this popular event. Well, the ladies (with help from four gentlemen) made a valiant effort in the 2nd leg on Saturday July 25th, but unfortunately the deficit was just too much, and the men were the overall winners. We are already looking forward to next year's matches. The competition was followed by a well-earned fish and chip supper, provided by The Village Fryer. As usual, the food was very enjoyable.

On August 16th we hosted our friends from Cliff Parade in the return leg of our annual friendly matches. Dersingham won by 94 shots to 89 and £36.00 was raised for charity on the day.

The Centenary Institute Cup, postponed from May 25th, was played for on Sunday, August 9th, culminating in the final between Iain Brown and Nicky O'Dea, with Nicky winning a closely fought match. Congratulations to both.

The Eddie Roye Pairs match was played on Bank Holiday Monday, August 31st. I will report on this in the next issue.

The Dickie Murrell Memorial League (Birds), is drawing to a close with the Hawks and the Kestrels battling for top spot. Results to follow.

That really rounds up our events for this season. However, our knockout competitions are reaching the final stages, so again, results in the next issue. Good luck to all remaining in these competitions.

Moving on to our external league competitions our team captains report as follows:

Countryside League, captain Terry Thompson reports:

Well, we have reached the end of our season at Dersingham bowls club. We have had quite a challenging time, with all the heat waves, but we have come through it reasonably ok.

I don't have all the results yet, as some of the other teams have not played all their matches, but for now we are currently in 4th place having come up against some tough opponents such as Docking, Ingoldisthorpe and Heacham A. I would like to thank all the team for their best efforts and hope they have enjoyed playing other clubs as much as myself.

Albert Victor League Captain, Iain Brown reports:



I would like to thank everyone who took part in the Albert Victor League, for your support and commitment. Although not all the results went our way, I believe that everyone put in enormous amounts of effort, and enjoyed the experience, even though we have been relegated to division 4. I look forward to next season with new opposition, and the challenge of new rinks to play on. Once again, thanks to everyone.

Our green keeper, Allen Toppin reports:

I believe we have had a good season at the club. The green has held up fairly well, with constant work by our team, usually on a Friday morning, with work being carried out on and around the green, hedges and fencing especially.

In October we will initiate a full programme on the green to prepare it for the winter, and next year's bowling season. With the team's continued support this should see us go on to have a club to be proud of next year.

Well done Allen and team, we don't always appreciate all the hard work it takes to keep the green so good, especially with all the challenges weather-wise this year.

The sad news now, The Green will close on Saturday, September 26th after a roll-up and finger buffet. However, we can still stay in touch each Wednesday at 2pm, starting October 7th, at our winter warmers sessions: bingo, darts, refreshments, and plenty of chat, right through the winter until the end of March.

Meanwhile, our Presentation Buffet will be held in the Village Centre on Sunday 25th October at 5pm. May I just say at this point, you don't have to have won anything to attend. It's a very social event, and another chance to see your bowling friends before the winter sets in.

Finally, hot on the heels of the Presentation Lunch is our AGM at 2pm on Monday, 9th November, in the clubhouse. Members, this is your chance to have your say in how the club is run, make suggestions, and 'heaven forbid', join our hardworking committee. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Well, that's quite enough for now. Until the next issue.....□



 Tuesdays-Dersingham Methodist Church Hall Gentle Pilates and Exercise Class 10 am and 11 am (supported seating/standing) Mat Pilates Classes 5pm & 6.15pm Call Anne for more information on 07717 333234 or email activehealthpam@gmail.com	SN HANDYMAN General home and garden maintenance *Painting & Decorating (interior/exterior) *Gutters Cleared & Repaired *Pressure Washing Patios etc. *DIY and Improvements No job too small <i>References available upon request.</i> Please call Steven Newton 07713 859712 or email: newton73@hotmail.co.uk Sedgeford, Norfolk
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Dersingham Sports Ground

David Collingham

Many readers have been following the ups and downs of the plans to refurbish the Sports Pavilion and we can now report significant progress on planning and funding a fully remodeled and refurbished pavilion that will be modern and user friendly. Following the award of £100,000 from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) grant from West Norfolk Borough Council, we now have almost £200,000 of the required £260,000 pledged. Subject to receiving one further grant, we can then set a date for the work to begin, which should be in April 2027. This start date will allow Dersingham Rovers Football Club to use the existing facility over the winter season. Completion is envisaged for September 2027.

Despite many hurdles and setbacks, Dersingham Sports Ground Association and Dersingham Parish Council have worked tirelessly to deliver this result, and we should like to thank all our friends, users and supporters who have contributed to the outcome.

Key elements include:

- Achieved planning consent and 80% funding for a major renovation to provide a modern, four changing room facility for men, women and junior sports teams, with disabled access and facilities.
- Incorporating a social space/club room plus a new fitted kitchen. The social space can be used for health and fitness activities and club social events.
- Use of current extended car park along with new disabled parking next to the Pavilion.

It is worth mentioning that the Pastures (i.e., Sports Ground) is a wonderful, well-maintained, grassland area, that has three football pitches and one cricket pitch managed by the Association for these and other sporting activities. It is not a public recreation space. All activities must be sport or fitness related and authorized by the Association. For further information about booking please see: www.dersinghamsportsground.org.uk or the village Facebook page. Unlike most sports grounds, dog walking is permitted if the dog is on a lead and owners keep to the edge of the field without crossing the cricket or football pitches.

Once again huge thanks to all those who have contributed, in any way, to the success of the refurbishment project.□



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RHS Sandringham Flower Show

In July this year the Royal Horticultural Society staged a 5-day Flower Show, replacing the regular annual Sandringham event, which will return next year. Visitors enjoyed beautiful, if hot, weather as they toured the imaginative show gardens and the glorious floral displays. There was music, food, stalls and an altogether festive atmosphere.







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Summer Fun at Phobbies

Dersingham Phobbies is a club organised and run by volunteers for people with a wide range of disabilities or who feel isolated and lonely. We meet every Thursday in Dersingham Social Club.

We had lots of activities that celebrated our hot, dry summer which were aided, on occasions, by the lovely air conditioning in the Social Club. A number of our members worked together to create 3D hot air balloon pictures, also making butterflies from paper plates which were put into pictures of bushes and the sky. They also made birds from paper plates and card as well as pigs from papier-mâché and soft drinks bottles.



Other members worked on their own artwork something of their choice, including coastal pictures, landscapes, animals and aircraft. They used paints, ink, felt-tip pens and crayons. While others enjoyed chatting in the cool with a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit, with some knitting at the same time.

On the final day before we had our two-week summer break everyone came together for a wonderful music and movement session to summer songs. We had all come in colourful summer outfits and lots of summer props were provided including garlands, hats and sunglasses. We had batons with flashing lights inside to wave and a range of instruments to shake and play. A great (and exhausting) time was had by all.



New members are always welcome no matter why you want to come. Any help that you can give is greatly appreciated, whether a one off or more regular, or you just want to chat with other members. Craft activities that our less able club members can carry out are really valuable. If you have anything you'd like to donate to the group, it would be very much appreciated.

Phobbies meets on Thursdays at Dersingham Social Club, Lynn Road from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm. Weekly subscription is £2; tea, coffee and biscuits are provided free, but we bring a packed lunch. Anyone interested in joining can just drop in on a Thursday or contact Mark Shelton tel. 07763 643498 or email mm.shelton@btinternet.com □

Art Teaches Lesley Nadel

Art teaches us how to make, question, interpret and understand the world around us. The four pillars on which art education is usually based — creation, study, criticism and aesthetics — begin with the practical use of tools, techniques and media to make hands-on works of art, but they lead much further. Artworks are studied within their cultural, historical and geographical contexts to show how human histories, societies, values and traditions have evolved over time. Through criticism, students develop sharper skills in thinking and observation; through analysis, they learn interpretation and evaluation. Through aesthetics, they begin to ask larger questions: is it art, who says it is art, do we like it, and why?

As a primary visual source, art informs, explains and persuades. It can act as an historical record, revealing the social values, daily lives, political biases and emotional realities of past eras. Any student of art history can find artists who are relatable in their struggles, setbacks and perseverance. Vincent Van Gogh is one such example for any artist struggling with mental health issues, because his pictures became an expression of inner turmoil as well as endurance. Initially, he became an artist to help him recover from the emotional trauma of his excommunication from his church. Later, lack of success and loneliness contributed to further breakdowns and manic depression. Yet while committed to a mental asylum, he painted some of his most famous works, including the expressive and peaceful *The Starry Night*. His work shows art as therapy, resilience and testimony.

Art does not only preserve the history of the past; it can also confront the injustices of the present. Ai Weiwei, famed as much for his political activism as for his artworks, is guided by the mantra, 'everything is politics, everything is art'. He is renowned for creating works that speak out about exploitation and injustice, particularly in relation to the Chinese Government. His controversial sculpture *Straight*, four years in the making, was made from 200 tonnes of salvaged, mangled steel rods taken from the rubble of the Sichuan earthquake. It was created not only to commemorate some of the 70,000 people who lost their lives, but also as a criticism of poor infrastructure, particularly in schoolrooms, which exposed the school construction scandal while many government buildings remained intact. Ai Weiwei and other craftsmen spent years straightening each bent rod by hand: an attempt to straighten a distorted truth and honour the lost lives. Here, art becomes a language for courage, protest and remembrance.

Art can also teach fundamental lessons about perception, language and representation. One of the clearest examples is René Magritte's *The Treachery of Images* (1929), with its famous statement, 'This is not a pipe.' The claim is factually true: the painted pipe cannot be smoked, because it is only oil paint on canvas. Yet we interpret it as a pipe, and Magritte reminds us not to confuse the human invention of language, or the depiction of an object, with reality itself. When standing in front of any artwork, we need to ask: What am I seeing here? How is it made? What is the story? What does it mean to me?

This power to teach through images, symbols and stories is not new. The monumental Bayeux Tapestry stands as one of the most definitive masterpieces of art history: not only a school book for the masses, but a powerful visual history lesson for a largely illiterate medieval population. It is propaganda as well as education, and a reminder that art has long shaped public memory. This amazing document in stitch is currently on display for once in a lifetime at the British Museum. If you would like to learn more, visit The Arts Society West Norfolk who are hosting a talk entitled 'The Bayeux Tapestry – international relations, then and now' with art expert Hillary Williams, on Monday 12th October 2026 at 2:00 pm, at Sedgeford Village Hall. Visitors welcome. Full details: www.theartsocietynwnorfolk.org.uk



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Monday 12th October 2026

The Bayeux Tapestry - International Relations, then and now

Lecturer: Hilary Williams

When and why was this amazing document in stitch made? It is shortly to be exhibited at the British Museum in its only appearance outside France.



Monday 9th November 2026

Paintings Inspired by Poems

Lecturer: Ray Warburton

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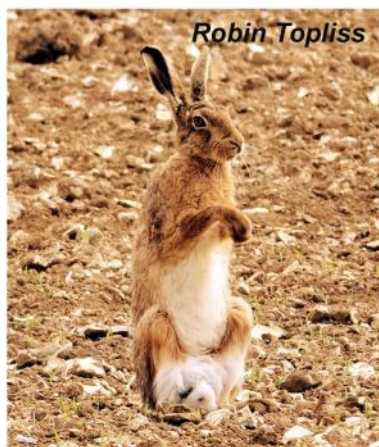
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Hunstanton and District Camera Club

The Club (based in Dersingham) is thriving and gradually attracting more members. Club meetings are held in the Freebridge Hall in Orchard Close, Dersingham PE31 6LU and take place on the first and third Thursday of the month at 7pm. Many activities are held elsewhere and are decided by the members, resulting in a wide range of events and outings. During the past year we have visited the Cromer Red Arrows, Walsingham sunflowers, Brancaster seals, Denver Sluice, Butterfly Search, Tapping House Tulip Fields, Cromer Pier, Walsingham snowdrops and many more. We have also had speakers at meetings providing detailed information about various cameras and how to use them. We had a very successful exhibition last year in Hunstanton Library and are planning a similar event later this year. You will see from the pictures shown in this Village Voice some of the variety of locations we have been to.

All photography enthusiasts are welcome to join us regardless of level of experience; we strive to help individuals to improve their photography skills and would encourage anyone interested to come to one of our meetings and find out more about us. For more information contact Malcolm Hayward mdhultrasonics@gmail.com or call 07979 503049.





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Making Gardening Easier May Davey



The rains came at last after five heatwaves! What a relief! Our lawns were bleached, and the trees were drooping and shedding their leaves. Gardens were bare of flowers and brown with dead foliage. In Dersingham there is still a hosepipe ban and we are officially in “drought”.

On 17th July members were entertained by Sue Neil at her home at Pentney Lakes. We had a lovely tea of sandwiches, cream scones and cakes. The waters of Pentney Lakes lapped at the little beach in Sue's garden. It felt like we were far away on some holiday island. Thank you Sue and Ian for your warm welcome.



Our 21st August meeting was back at the Dersingham Village Centre for our own Flower Show. Despite the drought, twenty of our members managed to produce a very colourful exhibition. Some even found roses in their gardens. The Best in Show was won by May Davey for a vase of five different blooms. Members voted for all ten categories and then chose their favourite item. A very nice cream tea was enjoyed by everyone.



On 18th September we took an exciting coach trip for the day at Pensthorpe. We left Dersingham at 10.45am. We are always happy to take guests with us. Contact our Secretary Gloria Pantling on 01553 671912 if you would like to join us.

On 16th October we will be back at Dersingham Village Centre for a discussion by a panel of allotment owners in Dersingham about the joys and sorrows of allotment care.

Our 20th November meeting at the Centre is a demonstration by Peg Hunter and Trudi Small of Christmas floral items. And on 18th December we have our Christmas Lunch at Knights' Hill as usual.



Meetings usually take place on the third Friday of the month at Dersingham Village Centre, unless an outing has been arranged. They begin at 2.00pm, stop for tea about 3.00pm and end at 4.00pm. Visitors are always very welcome. There is an entrance fee of £3.00 which covers tea and the raffle. Contact Gloria Pantling for more details on 01553 671912. Why don't you come and see how you like us?□



Dersingham Methodist Church

Elizabeth Batstone

Thank you to those who attended our July coffee morning, it didn't seem quite as busy, but cakes, books and jigsaws all sold well and of course, sausage rolls and the other refreshments with tea and coffee are always very popular. We raised £309.90, and this has been divided equally between Methodist Mission in Britain and World Mission.

In the summer months the church hall has been painted and looks very clean and fresh and soon we will have new window blinds. Helen has recovered the noticeboards with eye catching displays about the Church activities, the Matjinge project and Helen's visit to the Holy Land. She has also been busy updating our Safeguarding policies.

The next church coffee morning is on **Saturday 26th September from 10.00am to 11.30am** with funds raised for The Leprosy Mission. The stalls will have books, jigsaws, cakes, cards, bric-a-brac, with the usual tempting cakes, sausage rolls, tea and coffee. Please do come and join us.

The Harvest Festival service is **Sunday 27th September from 10.30am** with our Minister Revd Rich Ncube. We will be collecting items for the Hunstanton Foodbank – tinned goods, pasta, rice, tea, coffee, squash, long life milk, cereals, biscuits, jam, chocolate, toiletries, toilet rolls, washing powder, washing up liquid, nappies size 6.

The October coffee morning is on **Saturday 24th October from 10.00am to 11.30am** with funds raised for the East Anglia Air Ambulance, Cambridge Air Base Appeal. Funds are for a new base with the sale of the airport where they are currently based.

The Christmas Fayre is on **Saturday 28th November from 10.00am to 11.30 am** fund raising for the King's Lynn Night Shelter.

Revd Rich will be on his sabbatical during October, November and December and will be spending some time in his Zimbabwe hometown. He sent this about the Matjinge project:

'I would also like to express my sincere gratitude for the generous support shown towards the Matjinge Project. Thanks to your contributions, the second barrel is now full and subject to available funds and shipping arrangements, we anticipate dispatching it in mid-August. The Project is on-going, more information can be provided via Dersingham Methodist Church.' □

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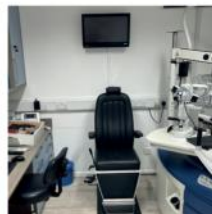
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Hanover Veterans Dersingham Sheila Davies

Here at Hanover Court, we are in the process of establishing Hanover Veterans Dersingham. Our aim is to provide somewhere where veterans can meet and enjoy some like-minded company. It doesn't matter how far in the distant past you served; all you need is your service number (does anyone ever forget it?) as proof of service. Our first meeting will be on Tuesday 6th October at 2pm

and we plan to meet twice monthly, on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 2pm. The meetings will be relaxed and informal with veterans attending having served in the Army, Navy and RAF so the likelihood of finding a kindred spirit to chat to is high. You can enjoy a bit of banter, share memories of times gone by and perhaps recapture, in a small way, the comradeship we all knew and valued when we served.

There are lots of organisations which support veterans, which some people are not aware of, ranging from discount cards to support and advice on your daily life if you require it. We hold details of most of these organisations and we are happy to share them with you. We are just veterans like yourselves, we don't have specialist knowledge, but what we do have in abundance is the offer of company and friendship together with a willingness to help if we can.

We are fortunate to have a spacious and comfortable venue in our residents' lounge here at Hanover Court. We are located off Holyrood Drive, about halfway down on the right-hand side in the building with a clock on top. If you use satnav our postcode is PE31 6YD. Make a note in your diary to come along on Tuesday 6th October at 2pm and enjoy a cuppa and cake (free of charge). You will be assured of a very warm welcome. □

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Landline: 01485 592531

Email: Lizpearce68@gmail.com



Dersingham Walking Group

Ray Johnson



Joining the walking group is a great way to meet people and make new friends. There is no cost involved: just turn up (we are very punctual concerning start times). All our planned walks will appear here in *Village Voice* and can also be found on our website **Dersinghamwalking.co.uk** and usually take place on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. **Note the change of start times.**

October-November walks

Wednesday 14th October 2.00 Bircham circular

Start Point: Bircham Stores TF768322 w3w: zest.sprayed.deranged

A very pleasant mainly rural walk taking in Bircham windmill and two duck ponds. Boots or heavy shoes are recommended if there has been recent rain. There will be an opportunity to partake of some of the store's excellent snacks after the walk.

Leader: Brett Thomas 07801 095510

Wednesday October 28th 1.30 Leziate Circular walk

Start Point: All Saints Church, Church Lane, Ashwicken (free parking)

TF 699189 w3w: keyboards.shining.asks

A walk-through woodland and farmland, passing close to the several man-made lakes in the Leziate area although they are only glimpsed. But there's plenty of good rural countryside. Approx 4.75 miles. Church Lane is off the B1145, and the church has a grass car park.

Leader: Stephen Martyn 07879 885516

Wednesday November 11th 1.30 Knots Landing

Start Point: Bottom of Station Road TF680308 w3w: stove.collides.vine

Autumn is a good time to see the birds intending to winter in the Wash: red knot, dunlin, oystercatchers, geese (both pink-footed and brent). It is always interesting to contrast the silence of the agricultural section of the walk with the cacophony in the Wash.

Leader: Brett Thomas 07801 095510

Wednesday 25th November 1.30pm Hunstanton Circular Walk

Start point: Hunstanton lighthouse TF 676 420 w3w fonts.watches.northward

Coast and countryside both feature in this walk around the Hunstanton area. About 4 miles.

Leader: Stephen Martyn 07879 885516.

PLEASE NOTE THAT the leaders are happy to organise and lead these walks but stress that each participant must appreciate that there are hazards associated with walking and take responsibility for their own safety. If you want more information about any particular walk, then please contact the walk leader. Dogs are welcome on most walks, provided they are well behaved and tolerant of other dogs. For general information concerning the walks contact the coordinator.

Group coordinator: Ray Johnson Tel: 07999841749 Email: rayjohnson315@gmail.com □



Dersybeats Festival at the Social Club

What started as a throwaway comment — *“Perhaps we should put on our own festival!”* — quickly turned into a fantastic weekend of music, food, fun and community spirit at Dersingham Social Club.



The idea came about when it was announced that the Heritage Live concerts at Sandringham had been cancelled. Rather than let the weekend pass quietly, we decided to see if we could create a little festival of our own. And so Dersybeats Festival was born! With just six weeks to organise everything, there was plenty to do. Singers, musicians and bands were contacted, local businesses were approached for raffle prizes and vouchers, and members began volunteering to help with everything from stalls and activities to the many jobs needed behind the scenes.

The response was incredible. So many people generously gave up their time, both in the weeks leading up to the festival and throughout the two-day event. We were also extremely grateful to the performers who supported us, with many kindly waiving their usual fees to help make the weekend possible.

As well as giving everyone a great weekend, Dersybeats was an opportunity to throw open the doors of the Social Club, welcome people who may not have visited us before and hopefully encourage a few new members along the way. We also wanted to raise much-needed funds towards replacing the club roof.

And what a result! Our volunteer-run stalls raised an amazing £2,880 for the roof fund — including an incredible £600 from cake sales alone! Clearly, Dersingham takes its cake very seriously!

Perhaps the best part of the whole weekend was



simply looking around and seeing people of all ages enjoying themselves. There was music, food, activities, and plenty of laughter, and we were incredibly lucky to have the weather on our side too.

A huge thank you must go to everyone who volunteered, performed, donated, baked, bought raffle tickets, ran stalls, helped organise, supported the activities or simply came along and joined in. We were overwhelmed by the generosity of local residents and businesses, and Dersybeats really showed what can happen when a community pulls together.

After six very busy weeks of planning, seeing the Social Club buzzing with people made all the hard work worthwhile.

We hope some of the new faces we met over the weekend will come back and see us again soon. There is always something going on at the club, so keep an eye out for our upcoming events — and we look forward to welcoming you!□



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Sandringham Parish Council

Ben Colson

Sandringham Parish Council met on 11th August, welcoming six members of the public and introducing our new County Councillor, Lee Jarvis, at his first meeting.

The Council reflected on its meeting cycle, noting that sessions were reduced to quarterly during Covid when councillor numbers were low. With a full complement now in place, members agreed to return to a two-monthly schedule. After the November meeting, sessions will take place in January, March and then the Annual General Meeting in May.

We discussed longstanding highway matters, several of which have been awaiting action for some time. Our new County Councillor has now received a detailed response from the Highways department to our request for consideration of speed limits on B1440 in the vicinity of Sandringham and in the village of Wolferton, as well as a ban on HGVs travelling through West Newton. We are now working through the largely negative response to see if there is anything we can salvage.

Progress has been slow on exploring whether the Parish Council should recommend adopting a Parish Precept to fund facilities and services. This decision carries significant implications for residents, as any introduction of a Precept would increase their Council Tax from next April. Pressure to consider a Precept has grown following the new County administration's unilateral decision to end the Local Members Fund, which previously gave each County Councillor £11,000 annually for local projects.

The money has instead been diverted to the Highways department, justified on the basis that some Councillors underspent their allocation and that pooling funds offers better value for road maintenance. We have been told this change applies for one year only and will be reviewed, but its immediate impact is clear: without the Local Members Fund, the Parish can no longer provide matched funding, which is required to access many external grants. A Precept would restore that ability.

One project affected is the proposed new bus shelter for residents of Louise, Victory and Caernarvon Cottages in West Newton, which, as in the past, depended on a contribution from the Local Members Fund. Whether this much-needed shelter can still be delivered remains uncertain, but we are committed to do all we can to achieve the desired outcome. The Council continues to seek alternative funding sources that do not require matched contributions.

Members also discussed the disruption caused by heavy traffic attending the RHS show at Sandringham in July. Councillors are currently agreeing a report that will be submitted to the Estate and other organisations involved once finalised. Although the Parish Council has no formal authority over this, it has previously provided feedback in the hope of improving arrangements for future events.

The Council was informed that improvement works around the Butlers Cross ancient monument at Babingley, arranged by the Estate and a local business, are expected to begin in the first week of October, including new railings and general tidying of the surrounding area.

It was also noted that the Borough Council has launched a new scheme offering up to £5,000 in revenue funding or £25,000 in capital funding for community groups and organisations. As applications must be supported by a local Borough Councillor and the

scheme closes at the end of October, interested organisations should contact one of the Dersingham Borough Councillors promptly rather than approaching the Parish Council.

Councillors were advised that proposed changes to local government structures are being progressed, even though the new County administration has initiated a Judicial Review in the High Court to challenge the planned abolition of the existing system. There is no timescale for the outcome of that review.

The next meeting of Sandringham Parish Council will take place at 7pm on Tuesday 3 November at Wolferton Social Club, and all members of the public are welcome to attend.□

Wolferton Social Club

Here are the detail of activities at the Social Club for October and November.

Cash Bingo

Sunday 4th October: doors open 6.30pm, eyes down 7.30pm.

Sunday 1st November: doors open 6.30pm, eyes down 7.30 pm.

Prize Bingo

Tuesday 20th October: doors open 6.30 pm, eyes down 7.30pm.

Tuesday 17th November: doors open 6.30pm, eyes down 7.30pm.

Social Club Opening Hours:

Friday and Saturday evenings 8pm - 11pm

Sunday lunchtime 12.30pm-3.30pm

For further details please contact the Wolferton Social Club during opening hours on 01485 541919 □

St Peter's Church, Wolferton

Wolferton PCC Harvest Supper and Quiz will be held on Saturday 31st October 2026 at Wolferton Social Club.

Tickets are £12.50pp which includes a hot supper with apple pie. Food will be served at 6.30pm; Tickets must be prebooked and are available from Tonia Slack email: treasurer.wolferton@gmail.com or telephone on 07891 109380. Quiz starts promptly at 7.30pm

Forthcoming services:

Sunday 11th October 9.15am Matins

Sunday 25th October 3.00pm Holy Communion



The 'Whybelonely' social club is going from strength to strength. It is held on the first Friday of every month at St Cecilia's Church, Mountbatten Road, Dersingham, 2pm till 4pm, Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy this very joyous group, even if you're not lonely!

The Parish Picnic, while small, was a thoroughly happy and enjoyable afternoon. With thanks to Pat Fuchter who organised it, and all who helped. It wasn't a fund-raising affair, but we ended with a surplus of £126.50. There are so many needs across the world, so it was recommended that we contribute towards the crucial work of Aid to the Church in Need in the Holy Land, which provides immediate relief as well as offering support to long-term projects. See <https://acnuk.org/holy-land-appeal#>

The Pope's prayer intention for 26th October is for mental health ministry; we pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

The Pope's prayer intention for 26th November is for the proper use of wealth; we pray for the proper use of wealth, that not succumbing to the temptation of selfishness, it may always be put at the service for common good and solidarity of those who have less.

Rosary prayer meetings are held at St Cecilia's every Monday from 2pm, all welcome.

If you would like to be on the distribution list for the weekly bulletins straight to your inbox, please send your email address to hunstantonparish@rcdea.org.uk. Also, if you are a new parishioner, there is a form in both church porches to fill in your details to welcome you to the parish. Feel free to ask if you can't see them.

For Parish news including Mass times and prayer requests, please see the Parish News page on our website. For information about live streamed Masses in the Diocese and related matters see the Links page of our website at, **www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org.uk**

The Sunday Masses are at 9am at Mountbatten Road, Dersingham, and 11am at OLSE Sandringham Road, Hunstanton. Daily Masses are at 10am at Hunstanton on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Fridays and 10.15am at Dersingham on Wednesdays. Website: www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org.uk Email: **hunstantonparish@rcdea.org.uk**

The Parish telephone number is 01485 534675. If you require a Priest urgently, telephone V. Rev Canon Peter Rollings on 01553 772220 or email **parishpriest763@gmail.com** □

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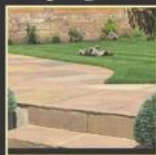
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CRUISING HOT...HOT...HOT !!!

In the cool dark times of an Autumn month,
We made a holiday selection from our hunt.
The choice brought snippets of a tune to mind,
That the Danube's blue...we'll have to go see and find.

We liked the look of the places it wound thru'
We liked the look of the historical places to view.
A cruise down its waterway, was an exciting thought,
Plans were set in motion and flights and cabins bought.

Meds, bags, plants sorted along with our amenities
The holiday was to become a merry-go-round of activities.
Taxi, aircraft, coaches, trams, land trains, on foot and boat,
On board, food, amusements and the cooling joy of being afloat.

The heatwave with temperatures was alarmingly high,
Going outdoors, immediately you began to sweat...and fry!
The excitement of going to the cities began to fade,
Besides shops and restaurants, there was not much shade.

Cold drinks, lots of bottled water and of course ice cream,
Getting back to the air-conditioned cabin was a dream.
Arriving back on board going through the hand sanitising channel,
We were offered ice cold drinks and a welcome cooling flannel.

Lovely being on board with a variety of activities
Quizzes, concerts and dress up night festivities.
Breakfasts and lunch, one could eat a little or a lot,
But at dinnertime it was a waiter service that we got!

We passed other rivercraft, saw bridges and buildings of splendid architecture
We went down huge locks, which gave a tingle and frisson of adventure.
The slow-moving views of the riverbanks and beyond,
Non tidal, calm, relaxing, like sailing on a mill pond.

We met many people and made some new friends
An unexpected joy that cruising extends.
Excursions and meals with them celebrating their anniversary
Was a 'getting to know you' based on shared camaraderie...
Holidays bring romance and friendship as such,
Making it more special, as we have kept in touch.!!!

'Here today, up and off to somewhere else tomorrow,
Travel – change – interest – excitement. A horizon that's always changing'
'*Wind in the Willows*' by Kenneth Graham

Lorna MMXXVI

Dersingham Task Force

Clare Bee

And now it is autumn: 'Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness!' (John Keats)

After what is now officially the hottest year on record, we are at last enjoying some slightly cooler weather. Here in the east of the country we have had some very welcome rain, but by no means enough yet to reverse the hosepipe ban.

It feels like this column is often a weather report or comment on how hot, cold or wet it has been recently. But for gardeners and growers, the elements are a crucial part of how we approach our hobby or work. This year we have seen which plants have done well, and unfortunately, which have not survived and have sadly dried up and died. I'm sure many people will be thinking ahead to next year, which we have already been warned could be the hottest yet and planning which plants may do well and even thrive in a hotter drier climate.



Driving around our lovely area, autumn seems to have come early, and it is sad to see many trees already shedding their leaves and even looking like they might not survive. Hopefully, they are protecting themselves and by doing this they are ensuring that they will continue to live through the coming winter and beyond.

However, one positive effect this year is the bounty of berries which are appearing in the hedgerows and gardens. There are plenty for the birds to have their fill and for us to pick and make into pies and jams.

Task Force continues to care for the flower beds in Post Office Road and at the playground. The two beds have different conditions, as one has no shade and the other is under the trees growing around the playground. Everything seems to have survived so far, but we may start to think ahead as to what we can plant to enhance and prolong these beds for the future.□



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Legacy - Shaping What Comes Next

Rev Karen Gower

As we tick over into the autumn months, it's the time of year where we begin to come together around moments of remembrance. Remembrance Sunday gives us pause to honour those who gave their lives in the hope of a better future - a future they would never see, but one they believed was worth protecting. We take stock of the legacy they created for us and quietly give our thanks, acknowledging the cost by which our hard-fought freedom was won. Their legacy is carried not only in the freedoms we enjoy, but in the responsibility we bear to live wisely, generously, and peacefully.

Legacy, however, is not only found in historic events. It is woven through ordinary acts of courage and kindness, those moment-by-moment choices when we prefer another's welfare over our own. This season invites us to look both backwards and forwards, to consider the legacies we have inherited, and the ones we are crafting through our daily lives. The life of Jesus is an incredible example of what happens when we live life with these kinds of qualities up front and centre. His impact on the world was not measured in power or wealth, but in compassion, sacrifice, and love. I encourage you to read about his life in the Bible - the Gospel of Mark is a great place to start! The choices Jesus made continue to shape lives across centuries, and if we allow them to inspire us to emulate his way of life and consider what kind of future our own choices might create. Legacy is about shaping what comes next. Every act of kindness, every gesture motivated by love, becomes part of the world our children will inherit and all those who come behind us.

With these things in mind, St Nicholas will be marking November with special services, and looking further ahead to December, we will also be hosting our annual Christmas Tree Festival - a celebration of community, creativity, and light. You are warmly invited to join us as we honour the legacies of the past and continue together in shaping the legacy of tomorrow.

Flowers of Hope: Sunday, 1 November at 15:00 in St Nicholas Church, Dersingham - a special service for those who have recently lost loved ones. The names from funerals from the four parish churches will be read out during the service.

Remembrance Sunday: 8 November at 10:30 in St Nicholas Church, Dersingham - our annual Parade Service for our Benefice, where all the names of the fallen from Dersingham, Anmer, Ingoldisthorpe and Shernborne will be read out during the service.

Armistice Day: Wednesday, 11 November at 10:50 for an 11:00am start at Dersingham War Memorial - a short act of remembrance. The War Memorial is located at the crossroads of Hunstanton and Station Roads.

Christmas Tree Festival: Starts Friday, 4 December at 10:00 in St Nicholas Church, Dersingham - come along and join us for a cup of something as we kick off this year's Christmas Tree Festival with our monthly Coffee Morning. Lights, stalls, refreshments and connection!

God's blessing as we look forward to what is yet to come

Rev Karen Gower

Curate of Dersingham, Anmer, Ingoldisthorpe and Shernborne

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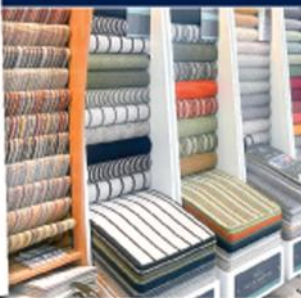
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Bell Ringing at St Nicholas Church

On the 25th of August we held a taster day for bell ringing: Inviting people up to the tower, watching a demonstration of bell ringing and then having a go with a down bell. This was very successful, having six people join us, and two of these have confirmed that they are keen to learn.



In March, we started teaching our first learner, a complete beginner. She is now confident handling a bell, ringing up, ringing well and now joining our regular practice for the next step, which is learning to ring with others. We are very privileged to be supported by our Reverend Mark and the wider church members, who are keen to have the bells rung regularly. We receive a lot of positive comments from the local community too, who really appreciate hearing the bells.

It takes on average fifteen hours teaching to learn how to become a bell ringer. Myself and my husband Dominic have had a day's training to teach bell handling through the Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) which gives a good support network around us.

We are a welcoming band and are keen to support others to learn if they are interested. Teaching takes place on Tuesday evenings and routine practice is on Monday evenings.

We also enjoyed ringing for the music and Church fundraiser, which was attended by His Majesty King Charles.

For more information contact
Rachael Melton email:
rachaelmelton2021@gmail.com or
telephone 07796 956226□

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Craft Club meets on the second Monday of the month at 2pm.

The Lunch Club visits a local restaurant every other month.

We have a lively Book Club which meets on the last Thursday of the month at 7pm. You are invited to come to three of our meetings as a visitor (£4.00 donation) before joining the W.I. If you would like to know more about Dersingham Evening W.I. please contact Sharon on 07597310905 or Janet at jknorth@live.com □

Hunstanton Croquet Club Zena Penty



Club afternoons, which consists of three thirty-minute friendly games of mixed ability golf croquet, continue to be very popular despite some particularly hot days. The Tuesday evening session, introduced this season, and casual play have given members more flexibility to play friendly games and practise to improve their game.

As usual August has been dominated by tournaments both internal and various level national association and Golf Croquet Competitions. Most are handicapped which makes games particularly competitive, often leading to an unpredictable outcome. Thank you to everyone involved in making the tournaments enjoyable and efficient.

The hot weather has partially parched the lawns which makes the ball run very fast in places. Johnny Ives and the club volunteers have done their very best to maintain them to a high standard.

Training sessions covering rules, faults and skills have been really useful and thanks go to David Boxell, Club Coach and Simon Carter, Club President for passing on their expertise.



For more information about the club see our website www.hunstantoncroquetclub
See the News and Events page for tournament reports. □

Dersingham Carpet Bowls Club Dai Stacey

The club resumed its activities on Tuesday September 8th after the summer break during August. As part of the social activities, a trip to Nottingham for a river cruise with lunch included was organised and enjoyed by all who attended.

The club's AGM is held in October which also coincides with club membership renewal. New members are always welcome. Membership is currently £5 per year plus £2:50 payable at each session which includes refreshments. Each session consists of three games of five ends with a refreshment break after the first two games.

We meet from 3:00pm to 5:00pm in the hall at the Village Centre. Potential new members are allowed a free session to try it out – no experience necessary, help is at hand. All equipment is provided by the club. We play for the fun of the game in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere so why not give it a try if you're free at that time.

For more information contact Dai Stacey
email: dstacey3@sky.com □



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In a world where Inheritance Tax (IHT) can be chargeable at 40% on relatively modest estates – perhaps as little as the family home, taxpayers are often keen to devise a cunning plan which will enable assets to be passed tax free to the next generation whilst remaining at least partially within the control of the donor. In general terms this isn't going to work. Where assets are transferred but the donor retains an interest it is known as a "gift with reservation of benefit (GROB)" and will only be effective for IHT purposes when the reservation is lifted.

The high cost of housing and the difficulties experienced by first time buyers can often lead to parents wishing to help children buy their first house – but because they do not wish to completely lose control of the money (or are not completely happy with their potential son/daughter in law) there is a temptation to create some sort of "loan" arrangement in the hope that they can call in the loan if anything goes wrong in future, but if not, it will simply be forgotten and treated as a gift.

This type of arrangement can turn into the proverbial can of worms in a number of different ways. On a practical level, there will always be a fear either that a relationship will turn sour, or the parents will unexpectedly find that they want the money back. If there is no evidence that the transaction was a loan rather than a gift, the parents and the (by now) estranged in-law may have different recollections of the original arrangement (particularly if there is a divorce involved), so it is highly likely that there will be some sort of paper trail.

Further complications can emerge if one sibling has been treated or is THOUGHT to have been treated more favourably than others, who might also have differing recollections of what the original transaction meant, and whether the loan should be brought back into the estate for the purposes of computing the residue. There might even be a possibility that at some stage the parents told the donee that they were waiving the loan and now considered it to be a gift. Again, if that information is not shared with the siblings there may be friction, but there is also an issue here from a tax perspective. A loan waiver is only effective if it is done by a formal deed. From the date of the deed, it will be a potentially exempt transfer and remain on the IHT record for seven years, but more to the point, it will not be effective at all unless it is made under a formal deed of gift.

Finally, there can also be an issue where the loan is waived, and the donee is subsequently assessed by a local authority for care home purposes. Notwithstanding that the loan may have been made many years previously the waiver might be considered a voluntary deprivation of resources in a care cost assessment.

In addition to the practical difficulties during lifetime, the real "can of worms" will explode on death. At that point the executors will discover the paper trail (and the possible absence of a formal deed or waiver) and will then have to decide whether or not to recover the "debt" if it has not properly been released. They will also be obliged to include the loan within the estate for probate. This may mean:

- An asset which everyone thought would be outside IHT will now be chargeable
- The siblings who didn't get the gift will potentially have a larger share of IHT on

the remaining estate

- The previous donee may not be able to repay the loan
- It is entirely possible that the previous gift may upset careful Will planning, and/or lift the estate over the £2m level at which the additional main residence allowance is lost
- Where a charitable legacy is intended to bring the reduced 36% IHT rate, the newly discovered asset may reduce the charitable element below 10%, leaving the whole estate within the 40% charge

There can be ways of using family loans, but it is important that the consequences are considered, and the waiver rules fully understood by both parties. As ever, professional advice is essential if unexpected consequences are to be avoided

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please contact Nicola Tarry FCA at Mapus-Smith & Lemmon LLP, Hunstanton office on 01485 534800 or ntarry@mapus.co.uk
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Caution: The information listed above is for general guidance only. You should neither act, nor refrain from action, on the basis of any such information. You should take appropriate professional advice on your particular circumstances because the application of laws and regulations will vary depending on particular circumstances and because laws and regulations undergo frequent change. Whilst we endeavour to ensure that the information contained herein is correct, neither we nor our firm shall be liable in damages (including, without limitation, damages for loss of business or loss of profits) arising in contract, tort or otherwise from any information contained in it, or from any action or decision taken as a result of using any such information.



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Word Wall

Sort the following into four groups of connected words. Answers on page 64

SYBIL	MAJOR	HAWK	ALLOTMENT
KESTREL	PLAZA	OSPREY	POLLY
MACDONALD	MANUEL	HEATH	BASIL
PARK	WALPOLE	NURSERY	FALCON



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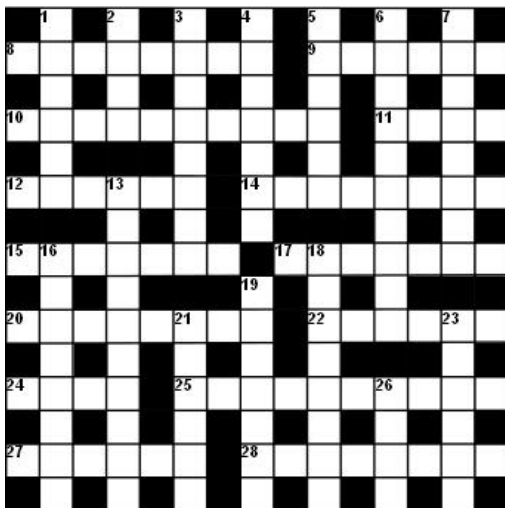
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Across

- 8 Dad retired with little desire (8)
 9 Family Bishop in hearing for this type of dynasty (6)
 10 Its about poetry surrounding central bible palindrome (10)
 11 Cuban scoundrel (4)
 12 Infection occurred when he contracted temperature and basically felt lethargic and unwell (3,3)
 14 Lighting coming through waving palm tops (8)
 15 Half-heartedly cook Rob in a bucket (7)
 17 Bone found by archaeological research party (7)
 20 Helped little sibling when Ted came round (8)
 22 Initially ruminant he bought in fine condition in South Africa (6)
 24 Own goal by reservists in Roman dress (4)
 25 Can you see the point of these equatic plants? (10)
 27 Dare he cunningly hide in key pad herewith and be faithful? (6)
 28 Resident on a Latin break (8)

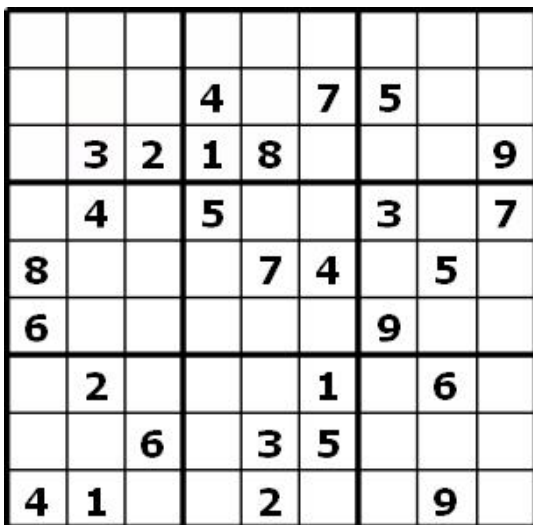


**Answers on
Page 64**

Down

- 1 Talk quietly in the diocese when going to church (6)
 2 Welcome to the garden party (4)
 3 She leads our island in a state (8)
 4 Somehow come around workshop retreat making music (7)
 5 Master switch to little flower (6)
 6 E.G. inch Pete engineered produced small change (10)
 7 Trike was dancing over the waves (5-3)
 13 Assumes all bets are off everywhere in Africa (10)
 16 Sailor meets Dutch NCO surreptitiously on board ship then disappears (8)
 18 Enclosed somewhere within (8)
 19 Devoted but trouble joining syndicate (7)
 21 Take a trip with tenor composer (6)
 23 Reload frantically or share the hardship (6)
 26 Note brought back to school (4)

Sudoku





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Crossword Answers

Across

8 Appetite. 9 Tribal. 10 Reversible. 11 Heel.
12 The flu. 14 Lamppost. 15 Parboil.
17 Shindig. 20 Assisted. 22 Rhebok.
24 Toga. 25 Arrowheads. 27 Adhere.
28 National.

Down

1 Speech. 2 Fete. 3 Missouri. 4 Cembalo.
5 Stream. 6 Eightpence. 7 Water-ski.
13 Fabricates. 16 Absconds. 18 Herewith.
18 Theatre. 19 Adoring. 21 Travel.
23 Ordeal. 26 Eton.

Word Wall Answers

Birds of prey: Falcon, Hawk, Kestrel,
Osprey

Fawlty Towers: Basil, Manuel, Polly, Sybil

Prime Ministers: Heath, MacDonald,
Major, Walpole

Urban landscapes: Allotment, Park, Plaza, Nursery

9	7	4	3	5	2	6	1	8
1	6	8	4	9	7	5	3	2
5	3	2	1	8	6	4	7	9
2	4	1	5	6	9	3	8	7
8	9	3	2	7	4	1	5	6
6	5	7	8	1	3	9	2	4
3	2	9	7	4	1	8	6	5
7	8	6	9	3	5	2	4	1
4	1	5	6	2	8	7	9	3

Village Voice Deadlines and Publication Dates

For articles, reports of events, meetings and details of upcoming attractions:

Issue	Copy deadline midday on	Publication date
No 163 (Dec26/Jan27)	Monday 2nd November 2026	Monday 23rd November 2026
No 164 (Feb/March 27)	Monday 4th January 2027	Monday 25th January 2027
No 165 (April/May 27)	Monday 1st March 2027	Monday 23rd March 2027

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Please send as Word documents. Any photographs need to be attached as separate files, not in the body of an article or email, and they need to be high resolution (large) images so that they reproduce well. Please send articles and photographs to **villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk**

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The editor reserves the right to amend and edit as necessary. Published material also appears on the Parish Council website. Copyright of all articles remains with the author. The editor and the Parish Council do not necessarily agree with any opinions expressed, or the accuracy of statements made by contributors .□

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